



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue

Room N758

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2216

(317) 232-5533

FAX: (317) 232-0238

An Equal Opportunity Employer • <http://www.in.gov/dot>

MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., Governor  
THOMAS O. SHARP, Commissioner

Writers Direct Line

March 31, 2006

School and Public Officials:

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is launching a new program entitled Safe Routes to School, or SRTS for short. The initiative is aimed at making bicycling and walking to school safe and routine. Federal funds will make it possible to create an environment where children in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade or younger can get to school like their grandparents did. Americans have come to realize that traffic congestion, fuel consumption and air pollution near our schools, coupled with growing health and obesity concerns, makes walking and biking to school a low-cost, attractive alternative.

INDOT will administer the program. Funds will only be available on a reimbursement basis for approved projects or activities. An application process will be established to determine the most worthwhile projects. Watch [www.in.gov/dot](http://www.in.gov/dot) for a new webpage in April where the application will be available and where INDOT will post current guidelines, important dates and relevant contact information. We plan to begin accepting applications in May and to announce project awards in September.

School principals, school district officials, local transportation officials and metropolitan planning organizations are encouraged to work together, thinking about ways to promote bicycling and walking. What improvements can be constructed or installed to make it safer for kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to walk to a public or private school? How many children now bike or walk to school? What policies discourage or prohibit children from walking or biking to school?

To find out more about the national Safe Routes to School Program go to: <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/>. Please contact Michael O'Loughlin at INDOT at [moloughlin@indot.in.gov](mailto:moloughlin@indot.in.gov) to find out more about the Indiana Safe Routes to School Program.